

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 11, 13, 16, 20, and 21 are now pending in the application. By this paper, Claims 1 and 21 have been amended. The basis for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings originally filed. No new matter has been added. The preceding amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2 and 11, 13, 16, 20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Katahira (U.S. 2003/0063456 A1).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 recites an electronic instrument including an electro-optical panel having an electro-optical material and a light-guide plate having a first surface and a second surface on opposite sides thereof. The first surface faces the electro-optical panel and extends substantially in parallel with the electro-optical panel in a predetermined direction with a thickness of the light-guide plate gradually decreasing in the predetermined direction so that the second surface is inclined with respect to the electro-optical panel. Independent Claim 1 further recites a wiring circuit board disposed at the inclined second surface of the light-guide plate, a conductive terminal disposed on the wiring circuit board, a circuit board, and a connector mounted on the

circuit board at a position between the wiring circuit board and the circuit board. The connector includes an elastically deformable compression-type connector terminal in conductive contact with the terminal on the wiring circuit board at a conductive contact position. The connector is shiftable in the predetermined direction on the circuit board with the conductive contact position between the connector terminal of the connector and the conductive terminal of the wiring circuit board being shifted in accordance with shifting of the connector.

Independent Claim 21 recites an electronic instrument including an electro-optical panel having an electro-optical material and a light-guide plate having a first surface and a second surface on opposite sides thereof. The first surface faces the electro-optical panel and extends substantially in parallel with the electro-optical panel in a predetermined direction with a thickness of the light-guide plate gradually decreasing in the predetermined direction so that the second surface is inclined with respect to the electro-optical panel. Independent Claim 21 further recites a circuit board, a conductive terminal disposed on the circuit board, a wiring circuit board disposed at the inclined second surface of the light-guide plate, and a connector mounted on the wiring circuit board at a position between the wiring circuit board and the circuit board. The connector includes an elastically deformable compression-type connector terminal in conductive contact with the conductive terminal on the circuit board at a conductive contact position. The connector is shiftable in the predetermined direction on the wiring circuit board with the conductive contact position between the connector terminal of the connector and the conductive terminal of the circuit board being shifted in accordance with shifting of the connector.

Applicant respectfully submits that Katahira fails to disclose an elastically deformable compression-type connector terminal or a light-guide plate having an inclined surface with a wiring circuit board disposed on the inclined surface.

The Examiner identifies element (406) as being an “elastically deformable compression-type connector terminal.” Applicant respectfully submits that Katahira fails to disclose that the wiring member (406) is “elastically deformable” such that the wiring member (406) is shiftable, as Katahira describes the wiring member (406) as being “connected to” a display panel (430). See Katahira at Paragraph [0091]. Because the wiring member (406) is described as being connected to a display panel (430), the wiring member (406) is actually fixed at both ends and is therefore not shiftable in a predetermined direction or otherwise. Applicant also notes that the wiring member (406) is not disposed between a wiring circuit board and a circuit board, as recited by independent Claims 1 and 21.

In addition to the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Katahira fails to disclose a wiring circuit board disposed on an inclined surface of a light-guide plate. While Katahira discloses a pair of light-guide plates (422, 442) including an inclined surface, a wiring circuit board is not disposed on the inclined surfaces of the respective light-guide plates (422, 442). Rather, a reflective sheet (402) is disposed between and in contact with the inclined surfaces of the light-guide plates (422, 442). See Katahira at Figure 6. Applicant notes that while substrates (412, 432) are disposed proximate to the light-guide plates (422, 442), neither substrate (412, 432) is in contact with either light-guide plate (422, 442) and neither substrate (412, 432) is a “wiring circuit board,” as recited by independent Claims 1 and 21. See Katahira at Figure 6.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 21, as well as Claims 2, 11, 13, 16, and 20, respectively dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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